Colistin (injection)

Essential medicine status ✓

Section: 6. Anti-infective medicines > 6.2. Antibacterials > 6.2.3. Reserve group antibiotics

EMLc | ATC codes: J01XB01

Indication	Carbapenem resistant Enterobacterales ICD11 code: MG50.C0
INN	Colistin
Medicine type	Chemical agent
Antibiotic groups	R RESERVE
List type	Complementary (EML) (EMLc)
Formulations	Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 1 million IU in vial (as colistemethate sodium) (equivalent to 34 mg colistin base activity)
EML status history	First added in 2019 (TRS 1021) Changed in 2023 (TRS 1049)
Sex	All
Age	Also recommended for children
Therapeutic alternatives	The recommendation is for this specific medicine
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Colistin (injection)
DrugBank	Colistin

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

In consideration of the review of the age appropriateness of formulations of medicines on the EMLc, and the comparison report of the EML versus EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended changes to the EMLc for addition of new, age-appropriate formulations and strengths of existing essential medicines, deletion of unavailable or age-inappropriate formulations and strengths, and other listing modifications as proposed in the application. The Committee also endorsed the proposals for further review of the public health relevance and evidence for specific medicines for use in children for potential future consideration for inclusion on the EMLc. The Committee noted and welcomed the ongoing review being coordinated by the Secretariat for the remaining sections of the EMLc for consideration by the 2025 Expert Committee. As a result of the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended the listing for colistin on the EML and EMLc be amended to include also the equivalent strength in colistin base activity).